

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Friday March 15, 2013

Barbara Albert, Hartford Renter

Good afternoon Public Health Committee co-chairs Senator Gerratana, and Representative Johnson, also to everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, Hartford, CT. renter, and registered voter. Concerned human being. I have multiple medical challenges. I'm on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security Disability. I have several volunteer jobs, when my illnesses allow. I did have 'regular jobs' before becoming too ill. According to scientific study, those of us with a chronic illness, and I have several; will die twenty five years earlier than the general population.

This is my testimony concerning Raised Bill **H.B. No. 6519** **An Act Concerning The Labeling Of Genetically Engineered Food**. I support truthful labeling of food, and any products that I'm going to put in, or on my body. So far, I've needed to make several changes, even though, being on Food Stamps, a person really can't afford to do this effectively. My grocery store is usually the Food pantry that I'm grateful to be a volunteer at. I want to know, need to know what I put in, on or be around my person. I, like many others, need to be cautious, as well as very concerned.

As someone with lots of allergies, intolerances and nutritional restrictions, I need always, to read labels, for every ingredient, hidden or not, trying to figure out if it's safe to eat or not. Through a lot of trial and error, I still haven't figured out what is safe or not. Last summer, I started to learn about GMOs, genetically modified organisms, also known as genetically engineered 'food'. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine, urges doctors to advise all patients to avoid genetically altered food. Safety agencies do not keep watch. There are no long term animal or human studies. According to what I believe in the research I've been doing, being exposed to these 'products', is why I have digestive problems, from one end to the other. I believe it's why I no longer have my reproductive parts. Why I have Reactive Hypoglycemia, which means I have difficulty with being able to regulate any kind of sugar properly, no matter what the source. Also part of why I have chronic migraines because my glucose is usually too low. I also believe that's why my immune system is attacking organs and tissues in my body, which need to be there. These are known as autoimmune disorders, like Lupus, Irritable Bowel Disease, Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Multiple Sclerosis, etc... There are over 150 of these disorders. Besides these disorders, allergies, asthma, obesity, and diabetes did not always be so prevalent.

It is unnatural to mess with the DNA of plants, animals, humans, bacteria and/or viruses. The last two is where the terms "super weeds", 'antibiotic resistance" and extinction come from. There has only been harm, and worse, no benefits. There are over 50 countries around the world that have banned the making of, and use of GMOs. Even the World Health Organization recommends effective and long term testing. I think that the overwhelming American

demand for safety and truthful labeling of our food, I believe Government needs to listen to popular demand. Look at the horrific evidence. This experimental technology creates an herbicide/insecticide; it doesn't increase crops, or nutrition, or increase drought protection. It creates this so called "tolerant stuff", which takes an ingredient in Agent Orange to kill. Is this 'stuff' you want in, or near your body? Not me, and millions others.

Just label it. Please. Thank you for listening. Respectfully submitted, by Barbara Albert